



HRST Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for Clients

This document answers some of the most commonly asked technical and clinical questions about the HRST and is intended for anyone working with the HRST, *particularly those employees who will not be Raters or RN Reviewers.*

What is the Health Risk Screening Tool?

The Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) is a web-based screening instrument designed to detect health destabilization EARLY and PREVENT preventable deaths. It is a reliable, field-tested screening tool that consists of 22 rating items, divided into 5 health categories. Each of the 22 items consist of questions answered by the Rater. When fully answered the HRST assigns a numeric degree of health risk to the person called a Health Care Level (HCL). The scale ranges from 1 (low risk) to 6 (high risk). There are also designated areas within the online program for diagnosis and medication entry.

Who would use the HRST?

The HRST is used by both state and private agencies that provide or facilitate care to vulnerable populations, such as individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, elderly populations as well as many other at risk groups.

Who can complete the HRST for an individual?

Direct care staff, Case Managers, Support Coordinators, Nurses, or Developmental Disability Professionals (DDP) can complete the HRST. The only pre-requisite is successful completion of the HRST Online Rater Training by the rater prior to completing screenings. Medical training or medical expertise is not required by the Rater to complete the HRST. The Rater does not have to know the person to complete the screening. In this case, however, the Rater will have to rely heavily on others who do as well as the medical record.

What will be my role?

Your employer will inform you of what your role will be in relation to the HRST. Raters and nurses are required to go through online training prior to using the HRST. Others, who will not be rating the HRST, may be required to do some orientation training via webinar so that you are informed about the basic concepts of the HRST. It is imperative that anyone who will be working with the HRST, directly or indirectly, has this basic, core knowledge about the tool.

How long does it take to complete an HRST screening?

Different factors can determine the length of time it takes to complete a screening such as the medical complexity of the person. Generally the initial data entry takes the longest as the user is entering data related to diagnoses, medications, and ratings. The initial ratings can take anywhere from 45 to 90 minutes. Updates tend to take much less time and can often be done in less than 20 minutes.

How frequently should the HRST be completed on an individual?

HRS, Inc. recommends that the HRST be completed *at least* annually. However, it is important to keep the HRST updated as changes occur to medications, diagnosis, and ratings.

Everyone is rated...now what?

Once individuals are rated, not only will you have set a health baseline useful for tracking each individuals' health condition but the HRST will have generated both Service and Training considerations specific to that person. In addition to this, the HRST has over 90 different reports based on the information you have entered which give you a better perspective of your agency and the people you serve. Our reports are so good they have been used by some states to report to higher agencies such as the Department of Justice, Department of Civil Rights, state legislatures, and CMS.

What are the Service and Training Considerations?

Once an individual has been fully rated in the application and a HCL is assigned, the HRST produces Service and Training Considerations. These Considerations help the team in a number of ways. They can help troubleshoot what may be causing the health risk, give action steps to the team on how to pursue/manage health risk, offer training topics for staff to minimize risk, and give talking points for staff when attending doctor's appointments with the person. Most of our success stories come from users who have used the Service and Training Considerations.

How does the HRST help me as nurse or direct caregiver?

As the support staff, you know the person better than most anyone. The HRST recognizes this. As a result of your intimate knowledge of the person, you are likely to know when things are just “not right” with the person. The HRST is designed to help you figure out what is “not right”. Think of the HRST as a troubleshooting guide to help you better identify and respond to the health needs of the person. It will also help you identify and respond to health related items that you may not even be aware of yet.

Is there any software to download?

No. The HRST is a web-based program so there is not software to download.

If we already use the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS®), is the HRST redundant? Is the HRST going to affect my SIS results?

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) and the HRST work great together. While the SIS looks for intensity of support, the HRST looks for health destabilization and risk. Though the scoring and results of these two tools are different, when results are combined they give unique perspectives of the person that maximizes quality of life.

Is the Health Risk Screening, Inc. and the HRST HIPAA compliant?

Yes. HRS, Inc. abides by all laws that govern the use and transmission of private information. Our web-based software has multi-layered security features that help ensure maximum protection of sensitive data. In addition, users are assigned user-specific login information to the application. Users are also assigned specific scopes within the application, allowing them to access only those individuals necessary.

Does the HRST really work?

Most certainly. We often receive success stories of how the HRST improves the quality of life for the person and even saves lives! Take a look at this success story from a Georgia HRST user:

*The HRST has helped immensely in monitoring for unhealthy patterns that might have resulted in detrimental medical outcomes. **People are alive today because of the HRST.** We observe and assess our individuals very closely as to make certain that they are in the best health possible. The HRST provides us with a snapshot of each individual's ongoing health status as part of a continual assessment enabling us to observe any adverse health patterns. This allows our team of caregivers to provide better continuity of care with the individual's health care professionals. Having ready access to this information allows for quick review of the individual's health history, we have found this to be a valuable tool for our organization. Thanks for sharing the HRST with us.*

Melissa R. Whitley, R.N., Director Magnolia House PCH, Inc.—Georgia

Will I get help if I need it?

We have various methods of getting help. We offer support at any stage of usage. We offer technical support and clinical support. The easiest way to get help is to just send an email directly to our support site.

- For technical support, email support@hrstonline.com
- For clinical support, email clinassist@hrstonline.com